

Sun Tavern Switches Owners

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

The Sun Tavern restaurant on Congress Street will soon be under new ownership.

This week, the Duxbury Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the transfer of the Sun Tavern's all alcohol and common victualler's license from current owner Kevin Dubois to John and Laurie Cowden of Meetinghouse Road.

The Cowdens plan to purchase the business and real estate from Dubois, who has run the restaurant for six and a half years. Dubois said it was time for him "to move on to the next chapter in my life."

Selectman Jon Witten recused himself from the vote because he represented a group of abutters to the Sun Tavern who opposed Dubois' effort a few years ago to expand the restaurant. The town ultimately rejected the expansion plans.

Between them, the Cowdens have 50 years of experience in the hospitality business. Most recently, from 1998-2004, John Cowden served as the vice president and general manager of the Jared Coffin house in Nantucket and Laurie Cowden was employed there



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as the chief financial officer and assistant general manager. They also have experience running hotels and inns as well as other restaurants such as the Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge, the Inn by the Sea in Cape Elizabeth, Maine and the Nantucket Inn and the Harbor House in Nantucket.

The Cowdens moved to Duxbury four years ago. They incorporated as a business to run the Sun Tavern on June 25. They expect to take over operations after the state approves the liquor license transfer, which may take up to four weeks.

In other business, selectmen:

- Voted to authorize Duxbury's superintendent of schools to submit a statement of interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The statement of interest is the first step in the MSBA's new grant program for building construction and renovation. Selectmen voted at the recommendation of the school committee. The school committee said that the Duxbury high and middle schools are reaching the end of their 50-year useful life and that the older section of the roof of the Chandler Elementary school needs replacing.

- Continued a public hearing until July 23 on a new utility pole on Elm Street because there was a discrepancy on the location. Selectmen approved a new pole on South Station Street for a new residence.

- Re-appointed Dennis Murphy to a five-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals and Sally Wilson to a one-year term. Selectmen also appointed Allen Crandon, and re-appointed Martin Desmery, Mary Jo Pierce, Y. Oktay, Jonathan Tudan and Vincent Giambertone to one-year terms as ZBA alternates.

- Appointed Gregory Morris to the Agricultural Commission for a three-year term to fill the vacancy created by Dick Loring, who resigned.

- Appointed Corey Wisneski to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term.

- Appointed Joseph Messina to the Duxbury Bay Management Commission for a three-year term.

- Re-appointed Bill Campbell as the Council on Aging representative to the Local Housing Partnership for a three-year term. This committee has one vacancy. Anyone interested should contact the selectmen's office at town hall.

- Reappointed Patricia Randall and Patty Cristoforo to the Municipal Commission on Disabilities for three-year terms.